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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 06 LONDON 27572

EXDIS CAPTION REMOVED BY S/S (EK) ON 11/29/93

DEPARTMENT PASS S/SN - TOM MILLER

E.O. 12356: DECL: 12/21/13
TAGS: PREL, IQ, US, XF
SUBJECT: RUMSFELD MISSION: DECEMBER 20 MEETING WITH IRAQI
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PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSSEIN

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS/FPC/CDR Date: JAN 13 1994
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1. S - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY AND COMMENT: IN HIS 90-MINUTE MEETING WITH RUMSFELD, SADDAM HUSSEIN SHOWED OBVIOUS PLEASURE WITH PRESIDENT'S LETTER AND RUMSFELD'S VISIT AND IN HIS REMARKS REMOVED WHATEVER OBSTACLES REMAINED IN THE WAY OF RESUMING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, BUT DID NOT TAKE THE DECISION TO DO SO. HE SAID ARABS SHOULD PRESS SYRIA TO LEAVE LEBANON AND ALSO THAT IRAQ FAVORED DEVELOPMENT OF POSITIVE RELATIONS BETWEEN PLO AND JORDAN. RUMSFELD TOLD SADDAM US AND IRAQ HAD SHARED INTERESTS IN PREVENTING IRANIAN AND SYRIAN EXPANSION. HE SAID US WAS URGING OTHER STATES TO CURTAIL ARMS SALES TO IRAN AND BELIEVED IT HAD SUCCESSFULLY CLOSED OFF US-CONTROLLED EXPORTS BY THIRD COUNTRIES TO IRAN. IN RESPONSE TO RUMSFELD'S INTEREST IN SEEING IRAQ INCREASE OIL EXPORTS, INCLUDING THROUGH POSSIBLE NEW PIPELINE ACROSS JORDAN TO AQABA, SADDAM SUGGESTED ISRAELI THREAT TO SECURITY OF SUCH A LINE WAS MAJOR CONCERN AND US MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SOME ASSURANCES IN THIS REGARD. OUR INITIAL ASSESSMENT IS THAT MEETING MARKED POSITIVE MILESTONE IN DEVELOPMENT OF US-IRAQI REALTIONS AND WILL PROVE TO BE OF WIDER BENEFIT TO US POSTURE IN THE REGION. END SUMMARY AND COMMENT.

3. RUMSFELD MET FOR 90 MINUTES WITH IRAQI PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSSEIN DECEMBER 20. FOREIGN MINISTER

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TARIQ AZIZ, INTERPRETER AND NOTETAKER ATTENDED ON IRAQI SIDE; EAGLETON AND PELLETREAU ON US. BOTH IRAQI LEADERS WERE IN MILITARY DRESS WITH PISTOLS ON HIPS. WHILE SECURITY WAS ELABORATE, BOTH APPEARED VIGOROUS AND CONFIDENT. IRAQI TV PHOTOGRAPHED SADDAM'S INITIAL GREETING OF RUMSFELD AND PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENT REAGAN'S LETTER. RUMSFELD OPENED BY CONVEYING PRESIDENT'S GREETINGS AND EXPRESSING HIS PLEASURE AT BEING IN BAGHDAD AND WITH HIS INTERESTING AND INFORMATIVE

EXCHANGE WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PREVIOUS EVENING.

4. SADDAM WELCOMED RUMSFELD AND SAID HE HAD READ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE AND BEEN BRIEFED ON MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER. HE SAID HE WAS PLEASED THAT POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN TAKING PLACE WITH SERIOUSNESS AND FRANKNESS. HE WAS ALSO PLEASED THAT PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE INDICATED DEEP AND SERIOUS UNDERSTANDING OF IMPLICATIONS OF CONFIRMATION OF IRAQ/IRAN WAR AND ITS DANGERS. THIRDLY, HE WAS PLEASED THAT US WISHED TO SEE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT IN ITS RELATIONS WITH IRAQ, INCLUDING EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS. IRAQ VALUED THIS POSITIVE APPRECIATION BY THE US OF THE NEED FOR A HIGH LEVEL OF RELATIONS.

5. FURTHER EXPANDING HIS THINKING ON US-IRAQI RELATIONS, SADDAM SAID IRAQ ALSO FELT THAT NOT BEING ABLE TO CONDUCT RELATIONS AT A FULL

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DIPLOMATIC LEVEL WAS UNNATURAL. INTERESTINGLY,

THE PRESIDENT USED A DIRECT QUOTE FROM RUMSFELD'S STATEMENT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER THE PREVIOUS EVENING WHEN HE SAID "HAVING A WHOLE GENERATION OF IRAQIS AND AMERICANS GROW UP WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING EACH OTHER HAD NEGATIVE IMPLICATIONS AND COULD LEAD TO MIX-UPS." EVEN BEFORE THE WAR, IRAQI LEADERSHIP HAD EXAMINED CIRCUMSTANCES OF SEVERANCE OF RELATIONS AND POSSIBLE RESUMPTION, NOTING NEED TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY THE TIMING OF ANY DECISION. THE WAR HAD INTERVENED AND ADDED COMPLICATION THAT DECISION ON RESUMPTION MIGHT BE MISUNDERSTOOD BY USG AND OTHERS AND THE WRONG REASONS ATTACHED TO IT. HE HAD NOW MADE A PUBLIC STATEMENT POINTING OUT THAT RESUMPTION DID NOT DEPEND ON WAR CONTINUING OR NOT, BUT ONLY ON HAVING DECISION WHEN IT WAS MADE UNDERSTOOD CORRECTLY. WHEN THESE NATURAL CONDITIONS AND TRUE MOTIVES COULD BE ASSURED, IRAQ WOULD TAKE THE NECESSARY DECISION. IRAQ WAS PLEASED US UNDERSTOOD THIS AND LEFT TO IRAQ TO CHOOSE PROPER TIMING AND CIRCUMSTANCES.

6. STILL UNWILLING TO LEAVE SUBJECT, SADDAM NOTED IRAQ WAS AN INDEPENDENT AND NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY AND IT WAS INCORRECT AND UNBALANCED TO HAVE RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION AND NOT WITH US. IRAQ HAD NO IDEOLOGICAL COMPLEXES ON THIS SCORE. ALTHOUGH THERE HAD BEEN BLOODY CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE BAATH AND THE IRAQI COMMUNIST PARTY, IRAQ HAD NO COMPLEXES ABOUT ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE USSR. IRAQ HAD DEVELOPED

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RELATIONS WITH WEST ON THE SAME BASIS. FRANCE IN PARTICULAR UNDERSTOOD THE IRAQI VIEW. US NEEDED TO UNDERSTAND AREA BETTER, RECEIVE IRAQI VIEWS AND ANALYSIS IN CORRECT AND COMPREHENSIVE MANNER SO IT DID NOT MAKE MISTAKES IN AREA. NO COUNTRY OR PEOPLE CAN LIVE IN TRUE INDEPENDENCE OR PROSPERITY IF IT IS ISOLATED.

7. TURNING TO OTHER SUBJECTS, SADDAM NOTED THAT ARAB WORLD HAD BOTH VERY RICH AND VERY POOR COUNTRIES. WEST DID NOT WISH MIDDLE EAST TO

FALL UNDER SOVIET INFLUENCE. ARAB WORLD ALSO WANTED TO AVOID COMING UNDER INFLUENCE OF EITHER SUPER POWER. US, AS IRAQ UNDERSTOOD IT, WAS NOT TRYING TO BRING ARABS INTO AMERICAN SPHERE BUT ONLY TO KEEP THEM OUT OF SOVIET SPHERE SO THAT COMMERCIAL AND OTHER RELATIONSHIPS COULD BE CARRIED ON NORMALLY. MIDDLE EAST, FOR ITS PART, NEEDED WESTERN EXPERTISE MOST WHEN IT WAS IN A STABLE SITUATION AND FOCUSSED ON DEVELOPMENT. US, UK, FRANCE AND JAPAN SHOULD EXTEND MORE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO POOR STATES LIKE PDRY TO DRAW IT AWAY FROM SOVIET INFLUENCE. SAME WAS TRUE OF STATES LIKE NORTH YEMEN, SUDAN AND MAURITANIA. THIS WAS ALSO A RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ARAB STATES THEMSELVES, SO THAT CLASS CONFLICT DID NOT APPEAR IN WAYS THAT ALLOWED OPENINGS FOR FOREIGN INTERFERENCE. THIS WAS WHY IRAQ HAD

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PROPOSED AT THE 1980 ARAB SUMMIT IN AMMAN A FUND

FOR ARAB DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION. FACT THAT IRAQ HAD PLEDGED ONLY $500 MILLION OVER TEN YEARS RATHER THAN $1 BILLION DID NOT INDICATE LACK OF INTEREST, ONLY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE WAR. AFTER WAR, IRAQ WOULD FOLLOW UP.

8. ARAB WORLD CULTURAL TIES WERE DEEPER WITH WEST THAN WITH COMMUNIST STATES, SADDAM CONTINUED. WEST HAD LEGITIMATE INTERESTS IN THE ARAB REGION, BUT SOMETIMES BEHAVED ON BASIS OF INCOMPLETE OR FAULTY ANALYSIS. LEBANON AND IRAN/IRAQ WAR WERE CASES IN POINT. US HAD ORIGINALLY ACTED WITH INDIFFERENCE BOTH TOWARD SYRIAN INVASION OF LEBANON AND TOWARD THE GULF WAR, FOR WHICH IT DECIDED TO "LET THIS GROUP OF LUNATICS BASH EACH OTHER." WHAT, HE ASKED, WOULD HAVE HAPPENED TO THE STATES OF THE GULF AND ARABIAN PENINSULA IF IRAQ HAD NOT STOOD FAST? NO ONE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PUT OUT THE FIRE. ZIONISM WAS IN FACT ENCOURAGING IT TO BURN.

9. IF US DID NOT ACT TO PREVENT SYRIA AND ISRAEL FROM CARVING UP LEBANON, IT WOULD MEAN THE END OF LEBANON AS AN INDEPENDENT, UNIFIED ENTITY, SADDAM SAID. US SHOULD PRESS ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW AND "ALL OF US" SHOULD PRESS SYRIA TO WITHDRAW AS WELL. UNLESS THIS HAPPENED, OTHERS WOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO ATTACK AND OCCUPY WEAKER STATES. CHAOS AND INSTABILITY WOULD RESULT. THE SAME WAS TRUE IN A SENSE OF THE IRAN/IRAQ WAR. WHEN OTHERS WATCHED AND KEPT QUIET, AS THEY HAD FOR

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THE FOUR YEARS OF THIS WAR, IT ENCOURAGED ADVENTUROUS THINKING TO EMERGE. IRAQ HAD NOW OVERCOME THE DANGEROUS STAGE OF THE MILITARY SITUATION. IT WAS NOW A QUESTION OF TIME. NEVERTHELESS, IRAQ WAS NOT HAPPY TO HAVE THE WAR PROLONGED.

10. RUMSFELD EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH THE PRESIDENT. WE HAD SOME AREAS OF HIGH SIMILARITY OF VIEW AND OTHERS WHERE OUR PERCEPTIONS AND IDEAS DIFFERED. WHEN HE HAD BEEN ASKED TO UNDERTAKE

THIS RESPONSIBILITY, RUMSFELD SAID, HE HAD RECOGNIZED IMPORTANCE OF VISITING IRAQ. PRESIDENT REAGAN AND SECRETARY SHULTZ HAD AGREED. AREA LEADERS, TOO, IN MOROCCO, JORDAN AND EGYPT HAD ENCOURAGED HIS VISIT. KING FAHD HAD WELCOMED IT THE PREVIOUS DAY. SUCH CONTACTS WERE WITHIN OUR COUNTRIES' BASIC INTERESTS, WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF RESPECT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY OF NATIONS. INDEPENDENT AND SOVEREIGN NATIONS HAD RIGHT TO UNDERTAKE ACTIVITIES WITH WHICH WE OR OTHERS DID NOT AGREE, BUT THERE SEEMED TO BE AN OVERRIDING INTEREST IN STABILITY AND PEACE. IN AN INCREASINGLY INTERDEPENDENT WORLD, ALL PEOPLE WERE BETTER SERVED TO THE EXTENT THEIR MULTIFACETED RELATIONS WERE ORDERELY AND DEEP AND SPANNED POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND OTHER AREAS OF LIFE.

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11. NATIONS, RUMSFELD SAID, WERE BETTER OFF

TAKING LONG-SIGHTED VIEW AND US HAD TO TRY TO TAKE A COMPREHENSIVE VIEW. OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE IMPORTANCE OF BALANCE IN THE WORLD AND THE REGION WAS SIMILAR TO IRAQ'S. WE SHARED IRAQ'S INTEREST IN HAVING A LEBANON EMERGE FREE OF FOREIGN FORCES -- SYRIAN, ISRAELI, LIBYAN, IRANIAN, AND OTHERS. WE ALSO SHARED IRAQ'S VIEW OF NEED TO SUPPORT GOL AND ITS HOPE THAT CONFLICT WILL SUBSIDE AND GOL WILL BE ABLE TO EXERCISE ITS SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE WHOLE COUNTRY.

12. TO THE EXTENT THERE WAS EXCESSIVE FOCUS ON LEBANON, RUMSFELD CONTINUED, IT COULD DISTRACT ATTENTION FROM NEED TO ADDRESS MORE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS, SUCH AS SECURITY OF THE GULF AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. IN OUR JUDGMENT, IT WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS FOR EGYPT AND IRAQ TO PLAY THEIR NATURAL ROLE IN THE REGION SO THAT AMBITIONS OF OTHERS WERE NOT INFLATED.

13. IN THINKING ABOUT OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, RUMSFELD SAID, WE STRONGLY AGREED WITH PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ABOUT EFFECTS OF GENERATIONS OF IRAQIS AND AMERICANS NOT HAVING KINDS OF INTERACTION THAT WERE NATURAL AT ALL LEVELS. IF THIS SITUATION PERSISTED, IT WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO AREAS OF IGNORANCE AND WARPED, UNCLEAR VIEWS THAT WERE IN NO ONE'S INTEREST. WE SHARED IRAQ'S VIEW THAT PEOPLES OF REGION WERE BEST SERVED BY STABILITY, PEACE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, BUT THIS DEPENDED ON THEIR LEADERS FINDING WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE TO

THAT STABILITY. THOSE WHO WANTED IMMEDIATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A JUST AND LASTING PEACE WERE EXPRESSING A NOBLE HOPE, BUT THERE WAS NO REAL PROSPECT OF ITS IMMEDIATE ACHIEVEMENT. WHILE WE SOUGHT THAT TYPE OF GOAL, IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT WE MANAGE OURSELVES SO AS TO KEEP SITUATION AS STABLE AS POSSIBLE IN OUR TIME.

14. REGARDING WAR WITH IRAN, RUMSFELD SAID, US AGREED IT WAS NOT IN INTEREST OF REGION OR THE WEST FOR CONFLICT TO CREATE GREATER INSTABILITY

OR FOR OUTCOME TO BE ONE WHICH WEAKENED IRAQ'S ROLE OR ENHANCED INTERESTS AND AMBITIONS OF IRAN. WE THOUGHT CONFLICT SHOULD BE SETTLED IN A PEACEFUL MANNER WHICH DID NOT EXPAND IRAN'S INTEREST AND PRESERVED SOVEREIGNTY OF IRAQ. WE AGREED WITH IMPORTANCE OF ECONOMIC INTERACTION AND IRAQ'S ABILITY TO EXPORT ITS OIL. ONE AREA WHICH MADE SUCH INTERACTION DIFFICULT, HOWEVER, WAS RISK OF ESCALATION IN THE GULF AND POSSIBLE CLOSING OF GULF AS A RESULT. US IS ENCOURAGING OTHERS NOT TO SELL WEAPONS TO IRAN AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. WE BELIEVE WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN CLOSING OFF EXPORTS OF US-CONTROLLED EQUIPMENT TO IRAN. SADDAM HUSSEIN INTERJECTED THAT LIBYA AND SYRIA HAD BEEN INTERMEDIARIES ON SUCH DEALS, LIKE THE RECENT SPANISH AMMUNITION SALE. RUMSFELD SAID THAT COUNTRIES

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WHICH ACTED IN SUCH A MANNER WERE SHORTSIGHTED,

LOOKING AT A SINGLE COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION WHILE THEIR MORE FUNDAMENTAL INTERESTS WERE BEING HARMED. THEY WERE SOVEREIGN STATES WHO WOULD END UP DOING WHAT THEY PLEASED, BUT US WOULD LET THEM KNOW HOW IT FELT.

15. RUMSFELD SAID THAT NATIONS WHICH EXPORT TERRORISM AND EXTREMISM OUGHT TO BE RECOGNIZED AS SUCH. PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW THAT TERRORISM HAS A HOME -- IN IRAN, SYRIA AND LIBYA. THE SOVIET UNION HAS IN THE PAST AND IS TODAY CONTRIBUTING TO IT. TERRORISM ADVERSELY AFFECTS THE SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE OF NATIONS. WE FEEL EXTREMELY STRONGLY ABOUT IT.

16. US, RUMSFELD SAID, SOUGHT TO PROMOTE A FAIR PEACE BETWEEN THE ARABS AND ISRAEL, ONE THAT RECOGNIZED THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. BEYOND THAT, RUMSFELD COMMENTED, HE HAD SEEN EFFECT OF CONSENSUS APPROACH ON ARAB DECISION-MAKING. IT TENDED TO ALLOW THE SPOILER TO ALTER THE DECISION OF THE MAJORITY IN A WAY HARMFUL TO THE FUTURE OF THE REGION. LOOKING OUT FIVE TO TEN YEARS, IT COULD RESULT IN PEOPLE BEING LESS HEALTHY AND ADVANCED THAN WOULD OTHERWISE BE THE CASE.

17. SADDAM COMMENTED IRAQ THOUGHT IT WAS IMPORTANT AND USEFUL TO ENCOURAGE POSITIVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PLO AND PALESTINIANS IN GENERAL, AND JORDAN. IRAQ WOULD ASSIST JORDAN TO HAVE THIS

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RELATIONSHIP, RECOGNIZING THAT JORDAN HAD LEGITIMATE SECURITY CONCERNS. ON QUESTION OF ARAB CONSENSUS, IRAQ HAD FELT FOR SOME TIME THERE SHOULD BE TWO TYPES OF DECISIONS: CONSENSUS DECISIONS WHERE POSSIBLE SO THAT THEY WILL BE BINDING ON AND IMPLEMENTED BY ALL; AND DECISIONS TAKEN BY A STRONG MAJORITY WHICH WOULD BE BINDING ON THOSE VOTING IN FAVOR OF THEM AND PUT OTHERS IN A POSITION NOT TO CAUSE HARM. REASON THAT SYRIA AND LIBYA ARE ABLE TO THWART ARAB DECISIONS IS THAT EGYPT AND IRAQ ARE ABSENT FROM ARAB

COUNCILS. OTHERWISE, DECISIONS WOULD BE TAKEN IN A MORE HEALTHY WAY.

18. REGARDING ESCALATION OF THE WAR, SADDAM SAID, PATIENCE OF IRAQ SHOULD NOT BE MISUNDERSTOOD. WHILE CONCERNED WITH SECURITY OF THE GULF, IRAQ COULD NOT DISPENSE WITH ITS NATIONAL INTEREST. WITH IRAN EXPORTING OIL AND IRAQ NOT ABLE TO DO SO THROUGH THE GULF OR THE SYRIAN PIPELINE, IT WAS NOT FOR IRAQ TO LOOK AFTER THE WORLD'S INTERESTS BEFORE ITS OWN. WHAT WAS NEEDED WAS TO STOP THE WAR, OR PUT THE GULF IN A BALANCED SITUATION FOR BOTH BELLIGERENTS.

19. RUMSFELD NOTED HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER IRAQ'S INTEREST IN PIPELINES THROUGH

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SAUDI ARABIA AND POSSIBLY THROUGH JORDAN TO

AQABA; AND SOME OF THE KINDS OF ARRANGEMENTS THAT MIGHT BE NECESSARY AND DESIRABLE TO INCREASE THE SECURITY OF SUCH AN ENTERPRISE. SADDAM RESPONDED THAT IN PAST IRAQ HAD NOT BEEN VERY INTERESTED IN THE JORDANIAN PIPELINE POSSIBILITY BECAUSE OF THE THREAT THAT ISRAEL WOULD DISRUPT IT. NOW THAT US COMPANIES AND USG WERE INTERESTED, IRAQ WOULD RE-EXAMINE IT. THERE MIGHT BE A CONNECTION BETWEEN US AND IRAQI INTERESTS, IF US COULD GIVE IRAQ A FEELING OF STRENGTH AND ASSURANCE THAT WOULD ALLOW IT TO TAKE THE APPROPRIATE DECISION. IN FACT, BOTH PIPELINES WERE IMPORTANT AND IRAQ WANTED TO DEVELOP BOTH. RUMSFELD AGREED THAT ONE DID NOT WANT TO BE DEPENDENT ON ONLY ONE ROUTE. HE SAID HE ALSO UNDERSTOOD THE NEED FOR ARRANGEMENTS THAT WOULD MAKE A PIPELINE THROUGH JORDAN MORE LOGICAL.

20. RUMSFELD SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO HEAR SADDAM'S COMMENT THAT IT WAS INCUMBENT ON THE ARAB NATIONS TO EXERT PRESSURE ON SYRIA TO WITHDRAW FROM LEBANON. SOME PRESSURE WAS BEING BROUGHT TO BEAR FROM THE OUTSIDE BUT THE MOST EFFECTIVE PRESSURE WOULD BE FROM WITHIN THE ARAB WORLD. WHEN ONE ARAB COUNTRY INVADED ANOTHER, KILLED PALESTINIANS IN TRIPOLI, EXPORTED TERRORISM AND BEHAVED IN A MANNER INCONSISTENT WITH THE BEST HOPES OF THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE ARABS, IT WAS TIME FOR THE ARAB STATES TO MAKE UNAMBIGUOUSLY CLEAR THAT SUCH BEHAVIOR WAS UNACCEPTABLE. AS FOR THE US, IT

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LOOKED FORWARD TO A RETURN TO NATURAL BALANCE IN THE ARAB WORLD. IT WAS IMPORTANT TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION.

21. SADDAM COMMENTED IRAQ WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE QUESTION OF PRESSURE ON SYRIA AND HAD DISCUSSED IT WITH SAUDI ARABIA, WHICH HAD THE MEANS BUT FOR SOME REASON WAS RELUCTANT TO USE THEM. THIS WAS NOT A HEALTHY CONDITION. LEADERS SHOULD BE CAPABLE OF LEADING THEIR PEOPLE. IT WAS VERY CONFUSING WHEN THE SAUDIS PROVED UNABLE TO

CLOSE THE ASSISTANCE FLOW TO SYRIA. IT SEEMED TO COME FROM A FEELING OF WEAKNESS AND FEAR, BUT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND HOW SYRIA COULD THREATEN OTHERS. IT WAS NOT SYRIAN STRENGTH BUT THEIR WEAKNESS THAT WAS RESPONSIBLE.

22. RUMSFELD NOTED THAT IRAQ'S RELATIONS WITH TURKEY WERE IMPORTANT. SADDAM REPLIED THEY WERE GOOD AND DEVELOPING MORE ACTIVELY WITH EYREN THAN HAD BEEN THE CASE PREVIOUSLY. RUMSFELD SAID HE HAD VISITED TURKEY RECENTLY AND TALKED ABOUT ITS RELATIONS WITH IRAQ AND OUR INTEREST THAT THEY SHOULD BE HEALTHY AND CONSTRUCTIVE.

23. BAGHDAD/BEIRUT/KUWAIT MINIMIZE CONSIDERED: PRICE

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